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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 24, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 19 totaled 19.0 billion ton-miles, up 6.1 percent from the 17.9 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 11 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 204.2 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.5 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended March 19 totaled 422,351, up 4.7 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 1.2 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 0.02 percent in the East and 10.4 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 10 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings were up by 6,474 cars (5.8 percent), grain showed a gain of 7,827 cars (29.1 percent), and metals and products increased by 2,300 cars (27.0 percent). Twelve of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended March 12 totaled 118,630 trailers and/or containers, up 11.8 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first ten weeks of the year was 1,165,361 trailers and/or containers, up 15.2 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/19/88:

	Loadings in Week ended March 19, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	34,733	I	7,827	29.1	I	1,730	5.2
Other farm products	3,359	D	820	19.6	D	71	2.1
Metallic ores	14,246	D	939	6.2	D	587	4.0
Coal	118,038	I	6,474	5.8	I	4,970	4.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,066	I	762	5.7	D	427	2.9
Nonmetallic minerals	9,630	D	576	5.6	D	25	0.3
Grain mill products	10,113	D	800	7.3	D	149	1.5
Food and kindred products	10,859	D	377	3.4	D	63	0.6
Primary forest products	10,131	D	502	4.7	D	26	0.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,230	I	71	0.9	I	32	0.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,322	D	287	2.3	D	94	0.8
Chemicals and allied products	28,605	D	316	1.1	D	20	0.07
Petroleum products	5,050	I	98	2.0	I	42	0.8
Stone, clay and glass products	10,956	I	761	7.5	I	304	2.9
Coke	5,460	I	838	18.1	I	311	6.0
Metals and products	10,806	I	2,300	27.0	I	57	0.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,489	D	459	2.1	D	115	0.5
Waste and scrap materials	10,474	I	1,408	15.5	I	142	1.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,462	D	202	7.6	D	116	4.5
All other carloads	81,322	I	3,880	5.0	D	691	0.8
Total Cars Loaded	422,351	I	19,141	4.7	I	5,204	1.2
Corresponding week of 1987	403,210						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (11 weeks)	4,527,573	4,276,615	I 5.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
10 weeks ended March 12	185.2	173.7	I 6.6
Week ended March 19	19.0	17.9	I 6.1
11 Weeks cumulative	204.2	191.6	I 6.5

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